

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6. Claim 32 has been added. New claim 32 includes the subject matter of Claim 1 and Claim 9, which was indicated as allowable in the office action of June 21, 2005. No new matter has been added.

Claims 4, 5, and 6 have been canceled and their subject matter incorporated into Claim 1.

As a result of the amendments, Claims 1 – 3, 7 – 20, and 24 – 32 are present in the application.

In the Office Action dated June 21, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 5, 7, 8, and 10 – 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 6 and 9 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 16 – 20 and 24 – 31 were indicated allowable. Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,931,114 (Bartholomew) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,016,558 (Oehler), U.S. Patent No. 6,000,353 (De Leu), and U.S. Patent No. 3,090,339 (Carr). The Examiner further rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,931,114 (Bartholomew), U.S. Patent No. 5,016,558 (Oehler), U.S. Patent No. 6,000,353 (De Leu), and U.S. Patent No. 3,090,339 (Carr), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,826 (Key). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,931,114 (Bartholomew), U.S. Patent No. 5,016,558 (Oehler), U.S. Patent No. 6,000,353 (De Leu), and U.S. Patent No. 3,090,339 (Carr), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,725,062 (Fronek). Furthermore, the Examiner reacted Claims 11 and

14 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,931,114 (Bartholomew), U.S. Patent No. 5,016,558 (Oehler), U.S. Patent No. 6,000,353 (De Leu), and U.S. Patent No. 3,090,339 (Carr), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,991,532 (Locke). Initially, claims 4 – 6 have been canceled and their subject matter incorporated into independent claim 1; consequently, the rejection of these claims is moot. With regard to the remaining claims, none of the references discloses, teaches, or suggests the features of amended Claim 1. The subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated into claim 1. As indicated in the office action, none of these references disclose, teaches, or suggests these features. Similarly, the subject matter of claims 1 and 9 has been incorporated into new claim 32. The examiner indicated the features of claim 9 allowable. Consequently, none of the references disclose the features of independent Claim 32.

Since the Oehler, Bartholomew, De Leu, Carr, Key, and Locke, patents do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features recited within independent claims 1 and 32, as discussed above, this independent claim is considered to be in condition for allowance.

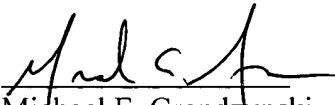
Claims 2, 3, and 7 – 15 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 and, therefore, include all the limitations of their corresponding parent claim. These claims are considered to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to their corresponding parent claim, and for further limitations recited in the claims.

Claims 16 – 20 and 24 – 31 were indicated allowable in the office action. Since none of the cited references discloses, teaches, or suggests, either alone or in combination, the features recited in claims 16 – 20 and 24 – 31, these claims is also considered to be in condition for allowance.

The application, having been shown to overcome issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

RESPONSE TO JUNE 21, 2005 OFFICE ACTION
10/601,830

Respectfully submitted,



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